

BEING A PRESIDENT IN LATIN AMERICA

It is Attended With Some Very Serious Disadvantages.

SPECIMEN CASE CITED IN BRAZIL

The Vice-President and Six Members of Congress Involved in a Conspiracy to Murder the Chief Executive, According to an Official Report. Details of the Conspiracy—The Tool Finally Chosen to Execute It.

A Rio de Janeiro letter to the Sun gives some singular details concerning the recent murder of the Brazilian minister of war, Marshal Bittencourt, and the attempted assassination of President Moraes. They are taken from an official report on the subject, and in the opinion of the official who made the investigation responsibility for the crime rests not only on the murderer, but also on nineteen accomplices, among whom are the vice-president of the republic and six members of congress.

The crime was political, so some explanation of the political conditions in Brazil is necessary. President Prudente de Moraes, when he took office on Nov. 15, 1894, was regarded with profound distrust by the personal adherents of Marshal Floriano Peixoto. Still greater distrust, however, and positive dislike bordering on hatred were felt by the Florianistas toward Vice-President Manoel Victorino. Though unwilling to adopt Floriano's methods, the president sought to conciliate the Florianistas, whose influence with the army made them formidable adversaries, and in doing this he was obliged to shape his policy so as to involve himself in difficulties and render his administration utterly barren.

His attempts at conciliation were only partly successful. In the difficult and dangerous situation in which he found himself his health finally gave way, and in November, 1896, he was obliged temporarily to quit office. Had his enemies been resolute and united they would doubtless have availed themselves of this occasion to get rid both of him and the vice-president. The latter, however, was permitted to take the presidential oath on the 15th of this month, and in doing so he was apparently very much disconcerted when in the beginning of last March the president, who had recovered his health, suddenly returned here and resumed office.

THE WAR IN BAHIA. It was during the president's illness that the disastrous war against the fanatics in Bahia was begun. On the very day on which he resumed office the death and defeat of Moreira Cesar occurred. Four days afterward, that is, on March 7, three printing offices and Colonel Gentil de Castro's residence were wrecked by a Jacobin mob, a crime that stirred the government profoundly, owing to his prominence in political affairs and the revelation it afforded of the methods of those trying to overthrow the administration.

These events had the effect of leading the president to decide upon a definite rupture with the Florianistas, who were most closely connected with the Jacobins. Among the politicians who then abandoned him was Francisco Glycerio, the congressional leader of the party. This man, who is a nearly white mulatto, is a man of considerable ability, and is one of the most cunning political tricksters in Brazil. He is said to have outwitted even the crafty Marshal Floriano Peixoto and to have contributed powerfully toward preventing the latter from making himself the permanent dictator. He worked strenuously for the election of President Prudente de Moraes, whom he doubtless hoped to control. He is one of the conspirators who, in the opinion of his report, considers responsible for the murder of the minister of war and the attempt on the life of the president.

CONSPIRACIES. With the return to power of the president began a series of conspiracies to overthrow the government, which are described at length in the report. Prominent in them was Deocleciano Martyn, editor of a small incendiary sheet called the Jacobino. He first became notorious in 1890, when he was arrested for posting in streets of this city documents which the provisional government considered seditious. It was in his defense that he had been actuated by the desire to give the name of Marshal Floriano Peixoto to the method which he adopted consisted in merely removing the plates containing the name of the square and replacing them with others bearing Floriano's name. During the reign of terror in 1893 and 1894, he made himself conspicuous by publishing lists of suspected persons. He afterward established the Jacobino, a journal noted for the violence of its language and for its attacks on foreigners, especially the Portuguese. Another of the alleged conspirators was Captain Marcos Curcio, who is commonly believed to have taken an active part in the murder of Marshal Floriano Peixoto. This conspirator decided that the republic was in danger and that to save it it was necessary to murder President Prudente de Moraes, Rear Admiral Custodio de Melo, leader of the revolutionary movement of Nov. 23, 1891, and of that of Sept. 6, 1893, Councilor Silveira Martins and others. The principal obstacle seems to have been the difficulty in finding a favorable opportunity for assassinating their intended victims without risk to themselves. Many suggestions were made for carrying out their purpose. It was proposed, for instance, that a house should be rented near the president's palace or on one of the streets on which he had to pass and that Marcos Curcio, who is said to be a good shot, should take his stand at a window and kill the president when the latter came within range. There appears to have been an agreement among the conspirators that each and every one of them should avail himself, of any favorable opportunity for murdering the persons designated.

VICE PRESIDENT IN IT. While prominent politicians do not seem to have attended the meetings of the conspirators, many of them, according to the evidence furnished by the police authorities, were aware of the plots and actually gave the conspirators encouragement and indirect support. And the leader of the Florianistas, Congressman Francisco Glycerio, has admitted that he at least was really aware of the plots and asserts that he took steps for warning the president of the republic. In what purports to be Deocleciano Martyn's testimony it is stated that Glycerio on one occasion asked Deocleciano to suspend operations, since it was expected that the murder would be rendered unnecessary by a military insurrection in Bahia, which would overthrow first the president of the state and afterward President Prudente de Moraes.

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A FEROCIOUS SENATOR. Still another prominent politician accused of being implicated in the plots is Senator Jous Cordeiro, who is reported to have said, on being informed of one conspiracy, that he heartily approved of it as a rapid and practical solution of the situation. The remark attributed to him is in keeping with his public career he made himself known by the violent, unscrupulous, and lawless methods which he employed in making war on slavery and slave holders. On being informed that the Emperor Dom Pedro II, who desired emancipation, deprecated all illegal action, he complained that the emperor's scruples irritated his nerves. He was at that time a poor man, but is now rich, having made a fortune of many years of a contract with the government for furnishing supplies to the furnishing population of the state of Ceara, of which he is a native and which he now represents in the senate. A zealous partisan of Marshal Floriano Peixoto, he was, at least morally, responsible for the hideous crimes committed during the latter's administration. In February, 1894, he suggested through the press that agencies of foreign banks, political prisoners, and enemies of the republic in general should be exterminated with dynamite. In curious contrast with the ferocious nature of this man, his name, Cordeiro, is the Portuguese for lamb. Cordeiro was arrested a few days after the murder of the minister of war. Another prisoner accused of being implicated in the murder is Captain Barbara Lima, ex-Governor of Pernambuco and congressman of that state.

OF THE TWENTY PERSONS whom the police officials charge of the investigation holds responsible for the minister's murder there is perhaps not one on whose reputation there is not some stain. And yet many of them may be guiltless of the crime with which they are charged. The evidence against them is not of a nature to inspire confidence, and it is only after testimony has been heard in open court that one can safely venture to form an opinion as to the culpability of any of the accused except the soldier who was taken in the act.

FOILED. The difficulty referred to of assassinating without risk to themselves kept the conspirators from overt acts. They made several attempts to incite military insurrections, but these failed. Their inactivity in regard to their original programme might perhaps have continued if Deocleciano had not met Marcellino Bispo de Melo, a soldier of the Tenth Battalion of infantry. The soldier, having read and admired Deocleciano's violent articles in the Jacobino, was seized with an earnest desire to make the acquaintance of their author, and did so. The editor of the Jacobino seems to have comprehended that he had at last found the man he needed. He took charge of the soldier and began to prepare him for his work, making him swear fidelity by the memory of Marshal Floriano Peixoto. When Marcellino was supposed to be sufficiently trained he was instigated to perform his task. To facilitate the work every precaution was taken, even that of surrounding the president with guards in the confidence of the conspirators. But in spite of all favorable circumstances, every attempt proved fruitless.

FINAL PREPARATIONS. On Nov. 5 last at 7 o'clock in the morning Deocleciano, Marcellino, and a third man met at the office of the Jacobino. On that day General Barbara and two battalions of infantry (one of which had been commanded by Moreira Cesar, the sinister idol of the Jacobins) were to arrive from Bahia, where the insurrection had finally been suppressed, and elaborate preparations had been made for their reception. They were to be met and welcomed by the president, by the minister, by the vice president, by the minister of war, by a congressional committee, and by many other citizens of high official rank. Afterward they were to march in triumph through the city amid the acclamations of the Florianistas, who had made arrangements for distributing a thousand medals with Floriano's portrait. What else might happen no one could foresee.

Deocleciano had decided that one of the events of the day should be the accomplishment of the object for which he had so long labored. His friend and disciple, Marcellino, was to avail himself of the opportunity which the day would offer for attempting the grand stroke that was to save the army and place him securely on the path that was to lead to the Marshal's lagoon awaiting the grasp of a second Floriano. He and his tool had accordingly met at the office of the Jacobino to arrange the final details of the day's work. The person with whom was the minor but still essential importance. He was to take charge of the box containing the weapons and hand them at the proper time to the future marshal. These weapons were a double-barreled pistol, a knife, and a dagger, with money furnished by a congressman, and a knife, which Deocleciano, it is said, induced Marcellino to believe to be poisoned.

DR. WURTH'S OPINION

OF THE NEW DISCOVERY IN MEDICINE.

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It says further, the point to direct attention is not the nerves, nor heart, nor lungs nor kidneys, but the stomach, the first cause of all the mischief. The remedy to use for indigestion and weak stomachs is not some cathartic or drastic, which will digest the food, increase the flow of gastric juice, absorb the gases, and Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will accomplish exactly this result in any case of stomach trouble, because these tablets are composed of the digestive acids, aseptic pepsin, Golden Seal and Bismuth, pleasant to taste, and not being a patent medicine, can be used by anyone with perfect safety. I believe Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will cure any form of indigestion and stomach trouble except cancer of stomach.

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man Barbara Lima, and Joaquin Augusto Freire took a steam launch and went together on board. On their arrival they learned that as soon as the steamer anchored General Argollo and Costallat had gone on board and had a secret conference with Barbara. They remained on board for some time and saw the president of the republic pass when he was leaving the steamer.

"Go," said Freire, in a voice loud enough to be heard by the bystander, "but you will never again enter your carriage." When the president, after landing on his return from the steamer, was passing with his suite through the arsenal, there were a few shots fired, which were the memory of Marshal Floriano Peixoto," which were answered with shouts of "Long live the president of the republic!" Marcellino, when the president passed him, removed his cap, and then, following the example pointed at him his pistol, which missed fire. He was overpowered and arrested, but before his arrest was effected he had killed with the knife the minister of war, severely wounded the president's chief of staff, and slightly wounded several other persons. Marcos Curcio is said to have assisted in disarming and arresting him.

Deocleciano, who had been seen with Marcellino on several occasions, was arrested at the headquarters of the First regiment of cavalry and other arrests speedily followed. The president issued an address to the nation and congress voted a bill for proclaiming martial law, which since the adjournment of congress has been maintained and prolonged by the president and is still in force.

LEFT ON TRAINS. All Sorts of Articles Are Forgotten by Absent-Minded Passengers. From the Chicago Tribune. Recently a Chicago railroad displayed in its unclaimed parcel room five barrels of rubber overshoes and a box of false teeth. All this property had been during a period of six months and more left on the suburban and through trains by absent-minded passengers. The general baggage agent, upon being asked what was the oddest occurrence of this kind, said that a woman once left on a train a six-months-old baby, and she did not miss it until a train overtook her with the little bundle of human life. She had forgotten to take up her own offspring.

Only one-half of the articles left on trains are claimed, and returned to owners. At all the railroad offices in Chicago there are to be found motley collections of about all the articles which man or woman ever owned. It would be impossible to list them in a whole page of newspaper.

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to earn his board by mousing in the baggage room. Cripples frequently leave their crutches on trains. There is a collection of them at all the offices. Hanging up in the parcel room of the Illinois Central is a big anchor made of moss gathered from trees in the far south. The maker had taken care of it until Chicago was reached, only to abandon it to the care of the parcel man.

LORD FAIRFAX'S STRONG BOX. Story of an Interesting Relic of the Early Days of Virginia. From the Washington Star. In one of the parlors of the Hotel Raleigh, now occupied by Mr. Philip W. Aviret, is a remarkable relic, which has a history of great interest. It is nothing more or less than the iron strong box of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, first Lord proprietary of Virginia. The box or chest is made of heavy wrought iron, into which has been welded iron straps crossing each other at right angles. The slight ornamentation on the front of the box shows it to be of Italian workmanship. The box is in a state of remarkable preservation. The keyhole is in the center of the massive lid, and a large, heavy key, black with age, turns easily in it. A wonderful thing about the lock is that the key in turning sends sliding bolts out from all sides of the lid to cling beneath heavy extensions of the four sides of the box itself, upon precisely the same principle as that upon which the modern bank vault lock in universal use today is managed.

THE SNOWY OWL. Something About This Winter Visitor to the United States. This beautiful owl makes its nest in the far North, and in winter visits the United States. Arctic explorers have found it as far north as they have ever reached. They tell us that it nests on the ground or on a mossy rock, for while most owls nest in trees, there are no trees in these far northern regions--even the shrubs are stunted. They do not construct a nest or, at most, only gather together a few leaves and feathers. The eggs are eight to ten in number, about two and a half inches in length, and nearly two inches in the smaller diameter, and, like all owls' eggs, they are of a dirty white.

The young birds are at first downy and brownish-gray in color. It is not till after they have left the nest that they are white, marked with brown, like the old birds. The snowy owl hunts its prey by day. Rabbits or hares, grouse and ptarmigan are pounced upon and eaten, and also small quadrupeds like mice and lemmings, which abound in the Arctic regions. It also catches fish, watching silently by the stream till a fish comes near the surface, when the owl seizes it in its strong claws. The snowy owl is about two feet in length from bill to tip of tail, and its wings when extended measure nearly five feet from tip to tip. Most specimens are white, marked with brown; but rarely is one seen pure white; the plumage is extremely thick and warm; even the feet are clad in feathers to the tips of the claws. Most writers that have been to the Arctic regions say nothing about the voice of this owl, so we might infer that they had never heard it hoot as other owls do; but an explorer of the last century describes its cry as very unpleasant--Our Animal Friends. Fined the Judge. From the Chicago Post. Bob Rose, court stenographer, was down in Texas last summer and formed the acquaintance of State Chairman Blake, of the Democratic committee. Blake is himself a character, but his

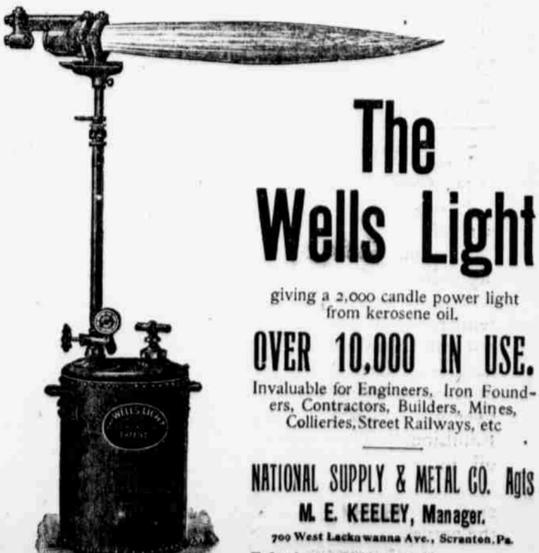
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